

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/552,332

Examiner

Vanessa Girardi

Applicant(s)

BRUS, BERNARD LOUIS

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment after NF filed on Oct. 5, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 10-29, 32-38, 41-44 and 46-75.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date N/A
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Art Unit: 2833

1. The numbering of amended claims filed on October 5, 2007 is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented. The highest number previously presented was 39, however the amended claims included cancelled claim 40 and newly presented claims 41-75. Given the application is in a condition for allowance and subject to renumbering upon issue, no further correction is required.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey P. Armstrong on November 26, 2007.

The amended application filed October 5, 2007 has been further amended to reflect proper dependency and incorporate the limitations of "a clamping means" in the following manner:

1. (Currently Amended) A connecting device for connecting two or more cable ends, wherein each of the cable ends is constructed from at least a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the connecting device comprising:
an insertion bush comprising clamping means for inserting the two cores of the cable ends, whereupon
insertion of the cores into the insertion bush causes the ~~insertion bush~~ clamping means to secure the cores therein;
an insulator arranged around the insertion bush;
a conductive layer, wherein the conductive layer is
provides electrical contact between the two earth shields of the two cable ends;

Art Unit: 2833

wherein a fixing means for fixing the cable ends to the connecting device;

and

wherein after the cores are secured within the insertion bush, the insertion bush against is in cooperative contact with the cores of the cable ends to provide conductive contact between the cores, and the insulator and the conductive layer are in cooperative contact with respectively the insulating sheaths and the earth shields of the cable ends.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the clamping means

engage on the inserted cores and the fixing means engage on at least one of the earth shield, the insulating sheath and the field control sheath.

11. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the clamping means provide a low resistance to a movement of the core ends in an insertion direction and provide a high resistance to movement in the opposite direction.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for mutually connecting two cable ends, the cable ends each comprising a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a connecting device comprising an insertion bush having clamping means with an insulator

therearound and a conductive layer;

stripping each cable end in stepwise manner;

successively inserting each core of each cable end into the insertion bush of the connecting device, whereupon insertion of the cores into the insertion bush causes the ~~insertion bush~~ clamping means to secure the core ends therein; and

wherein after the cores are secured within the insertion bush,

the cores of the different cable ends are in cooperative contact with the insertion bush to provide conductive contact between the cores of the different cable ends and the insulator and the conductive layer are in cooperative contact with

respectively the insulating sheaths and the earth shields of the cable ends; and fixing the cable ends relative to the connecting device.

Art Unit: 2833

41. (Currently Amended) A connecting device for connecting a stripped cable end to an end element, wherein the cable comprises a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the connecting device comprising:
an insertion bush comprising clamping means for inserting the core of the cable, whereupon insertion of the core into
the insertion bush causes the ~~insertion bush~~ clamping means to secure the core therein;
a sleeve-shaped insulator arranged around the insertion bush;
a fixing means for fixing the cable end to the device; and
wherein after the core is secured within insertion bush, the insertion bush is in cooperative contact with the core to provide electrical contact between the core and the end element, and wherein the insulator of the connecting device is in cooperative contact with the insulating sheath of the cable.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim ~~[[45]]~~ 41, wherein the clamping means
engage on the inserted cores and the fixing means engage on at least one of the earth shield, the insulating sheath and the field control sheath.

47. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim ~~[[45]]~~ 41, wherein the clamping means
provide a low resistance to a movement of the core ends in an insertion direction and provide a high resistance to movement in the opposite direction.

65. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting to an end element, a cable end comprising a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the method comprising the steps of:
providing an end element comprising an insertion bush having clamping means, a connecting end connected
thereto and a sleeve-like insulator;
attaching a connecting device to the end element,
stripping the cable end in stepwise manner;
inserting the cable end into the connecting device;
wherein the cable end is inserted into the connecting device until the core is in cooperative contact with the insertion bush and the insertion bush provides
conductive contact between the cores and the connecting end, and the insulator is

Art Unit: 2833

in cooperative contact with the insulating sheath of the cable end;
whereupon insertion of the core into the insertion bush causes the ~~insertion-bush~~ clamping means to secure the core therein; and
fixing the cable end relative to the connecting device.

73. (Currently Amended) A connecting device for connecting to a stripped end of a cable, wherein the cable comprises a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the connecting device comprising:
an insertion bush having clamping means for insertion of the core of the cable therein, whereupon insertion of the core into the insertion bush causes the ~~insertion-bush~~ clamping means to secure the core therein; an insulator arranged around the insertion bush; a conductive layer arranged around the insulator; a fixing means for fixing the stripped end of the cable to the connecting device; and wherein after the core is secured within the insertion bush, the insertion bush is in cooperative contact with the core, the insulator is in cooperative contact with the insulating sheath, and the conductive layer is in cooperative contact with the earth shield.

74. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 73 wherein the ~~insertion-bush~~ clamping means secures the core within the insertion bush by ~~a clamping means that engages~~ exacting pressure against the core as the core is inserted into the insertion bush.

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1, 41 and 73; allowability resides, at least *in part*, with the prior art not disclosing, teaching or suggesting a connecting device for a cable end in which the core is exposed such that insertion of the core into an insertion bush engages clamping means which serves to secure the core within the insertion bush in conjunction with **ALL** the remaining limitations within claims 1, 41 and 73 respectively; resulting in a significant structural difference between the claimed subject-matter and the most closely related prior art of record.

The same reasoning applied in the allowance of apparatus claims 1, 41 and 73, *mutatis mutandis*, applies to the subject-matter of method claims 29 and 65, given the apparatus is

Art Unit: 2833

considered inseparable from the method of (making/using) the apparatus.

Any comments considered necessary by the Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanessa Girardi: Telephone number (571) 272-5924.

Monday – Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EST)


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VG

Art Unit 2833
November 26, 2007


RENSE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER